

## **Request for Proposals to Implement the English Access Microscholarship Program**

The Regional English Language Office (RELO Addis), Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia invites potential in-country educational service providers (universities and colleges) in Somali, Afar, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella regions of Ethiopia to apply to administer the English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) on a competitive basis.

Interested public institutions, which have the experience of working on education, especially on English language education, can download **the technical proposal** [Click here](#) and **cost proposal** [Click here](#) templates, complete them as per the requirements, and send the proposals before the deadline to take part in the competition.

The embassy urges all competitors to read the **English Access Microscholarship Program Handbook** [Click here](#), before completing the proposals. Proposals should be completed with strict adherence to the guidelines indicated in the handbook, and there should be consistency between the technical and the cost proposal.

### **Program Information**

The English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) is a global scholarship program that is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by FHI360 in Washington,DC. This invitation is to apply for a sub-award with FHI360. The program has been operational since 2004, and it provides a foundation of English language skills to 13-20 year-old bright but economically disadvantaged pupils through after-school classes and intensive sessions. Access aims to equip selected students with strong English language skills that can lead to better jobs, increase their ability to participate successfully in the socio-economic development of their country, and gain the ability to compete for and participate in future U.S. exchange and study programs. Moreover, it helps students gain an appreciation for American culture and democratic ideals.

**Project Overview:** The program implementing organization will be expected to provide selected groups of students with two years of after-school English language instruction and enhancement activities, e.g. at least 180 hours of instruction per year or a minimum 360 hours within two years, aimed at improving students overall English language proficiency in the four basic skills of speaking, listening, writing and reading. In addition to providing quality instruction in the English language to Access students, grantees will be encouraged to conduct enhancement activities with content that gives the participants insights into, and an appreciation for, U.S. culture and democratic ideals. These activities could involve such things as public speaking or debate; lessons on U.S. society and culture; community awareness activities, including civic education classes; community service and advocacy discussions and activities, including Global Youth Service Day; and English-language summer camps. Enhancement activities should be designed to help students better understand U.S. society and ideals, including the U.S. values of volunteerism and community service.

**Objectives:** The overall objective of the Access Program is to enhance the English-language skills of disadvantaged youth and thereby develop increased self-confidence, stronger critical thinking skills, and opportunities to study or obtain jobs.

Specific objectives include: 1) Providing students from socially disadvantaged families with English language classes at no cost; 2) Enabling these students to develop leadership and interpersonal skills through various enhancement activities; 3) Increasing students' understanding of U.S. culture and ideals through enrichment activities; 4) Enabling students with improved English language skills to successfully participate in U.S. government-funded academic exchange programs and other public diplomacy initiatives.

#### Budget Award

The Access Program request for proposals is expected to identify two providers to fund two-years of after-school classes, enhancement activities and intensive sessions for 50 students per provider, at a cost of no more than a total of **\$30,000** per provider. This means each provider should submit a proposal of up to **\$30,000** for **50 students**.

As it is indicated in the handbook, grantee organizations are expected to keep administration costs to a minimum. Please note that administration costs should not exceed 10% of the total budget.

#### Proposal Submission

Please submit your proposals using the attached (Access Cost Proposal and Access Technical Proposal) templates.

To submit your proposals or if you have any question, please email: [RELOAddis@state.gov](mailto:RELOAddis@state.gov) .

#### Application Deadline

You should submit the proposals before Close of Business (5:00 pm EAT) **August 31, 2021**. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

**NB.** The embassy has arranged **a virtual information session** on Zoom, which is to be held on **the 11<sup>th</sup> of August, 2pm**. Please use the [Zoom link](#) to join the session **Meeting ID: 161 643 5590, Passcode: 370952**.

During the session, a short briefing will be given and questions from the potential providers will be addressed. We encourage applicant organizations to read the handbook and complete the proposal templates before the information session so that they can come up with questions related to real challenges. The session will be recorded so that all applicants can view it.